

REMARKS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on 27 August 2004 for the above-referenced patent application. The Applicant hereby respectfully requests entry of this Amendment.

In the present Amendment, the Applicant amends claims 9 and 14. In addition, the Applicant adds new dependent claims 26-33. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment of claims 9 and 14 and the addition of new claims 26-33. Thus, the Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of amended claims 9-18 and consideration of new claims 26-33.

In the Office Action mailed on 27 August 2004, the Examiner indicated that the disclosure was objected to. In particular, the Examiner cited continuing data on top of page 1 as needing an update to include an abandoned status of parent case 10/156,633. In response, the Applicant notes that the holding of abandonment of the parent case was withdrawn and the parent case was restored to pending status. Although the parent case is currently being issued, no patent number has yet to be given. Therefore, the Examiner's objection should be now overcome.

In the same Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 was objected to. In particular, the Examiner cited an informality in line 3 of claim 9, indicating "P2" should be deleted in order to maintain consistency. In response, the Applicant deletes "P2" from line 3 of claim 9. Therefore, the Examiner's objection is now overcome.

In addition, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 9-18 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S.

Patent No. 5,155,646 to Fujisawa et al. (hereinafter "Fujisawa"), U.S. Patent No. 5,923,506 to Herrera (hereinafter "Herrera"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,296,955 to Hossain et al. (hereinafter "Hossain"). In response, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections and submits that claims 9-18 as amended and new claims 26-33 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 9 and 14 as amended now include the limitation "recessed behind the ABS" for the front edge of the front connecting pedestal as well as "recessed behind the ABS" for the front edge of the yoke. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment of claims 9 and 14. Exemplary support for both these limitations may be found at e.g. in FIG. 15 and page 14 at lines 4-6 of the originally filed patent application.

As apparent from the specification and claims, the magnetic head and associated disk drive of the present application relate to a structure which provides for protection of the second pole piece during the ion mill patterning of the yoke. As one skilled in the art would appreciate, this concern is valid only where the front edges of the structures are recessed from the ABS. This provides for a narrow structure in the pole tip region for high areal density recording.

The prior art alone or in combination fails to teach or suggest such a structure as well as the concerns associated with its fabrication and operation. Thus, the inventive structure provides for high areal density recording and lends itself to improved manufacturability.

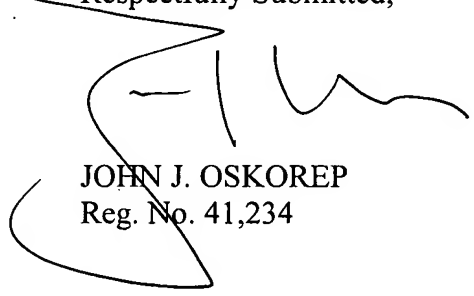
The additional reasons for allowability of several dependent claims rejected to by the Examiner are not discussed as these rejections are now moot.

Based on the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the informalities and rejections of the Office Action have been overcome. Pending claims 9-18 and 26-33 are allowable over the prior art of record and the application is in a condition suitable for allowance.

Thank you. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if necessary to expedite prosecution for this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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